

Application No. 09/735,762
Filed: December 13, 2000
Group Art Unit: 1746

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Original) A method of operating a dry-cleaning system,
2 comprising:

3 disposing substrates to be dry-cleaned into a cleaning
4 vessel;

5 evacuating air and water vapor from the interior of the
6 cleaning vessel to the atmosphere;

7 equalizing the pressure between a first storage vessel
8 containing a dry-cleaning medium and the cleaning vessel;

9 conveying the dry-cleaning medium from a second storage
10 vessel to the cleaning vessel;

11 agitating the substrates in the cleaning vessel;

12 conveying liquid dry-cleaning medium from the cleaning vessel
13 to the second storage vessel;

14 evacuating gaseous dry-cleaning medium from the cleaning
15 vessel to the first storage vessel; and

16 raising the cleaning vessel internal pressure to atmospheric
17 pressure by admitting air.

1 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein equalizing the
2 pressure comprises selectively operating a compressor and valves
3 associated with conduits interconnecting the first storage vessel
4 and the cleaning vessel.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein conveying the dry-
2 cleaning medium comprises selectively operating a compressor and

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3 valves associated with conduits interconnecting the second storage
4 vessel and the cleaning vessel.

Sub B2
1 15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein conveying liquid
2 dry-cleaning medium comprises selectively operating a compressor
3 and valves associated with conduits interconnecting the second
4 storage vessel and the cleaning vessel.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein evacuating gaseous
2 dry-cleaning medium comprises selectively operating a compressor
3 and valves associated with conduits interconnecting the first
4 storage vessel and the cleaning vessel.

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1 17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein agitating
2 comprises agitating the substrates in the cleaning vessel through
3 rotation of a rotatable basket disposed within the cleaning
4 vessel.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein evacuating gaseous
2 dry-cleaning medium further comprises conducting the gaseous dry-
3 cleaning medium through a heat exchanging conduit disposed within
4 the cleaning vessel.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein evacuating gaseous
2 dry-cleaning medium further comprises conducting the gaseous dry-
3 cleaning medium through an aperture into a lower portion of the
4 first storage vessel to enable heat transfer from the gaseous dry-
5 cleaning medium to dry-cleaning medium already disposed in the
6 first storage vessel.